

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A device for temporal metering of events, comprising:
means for associating a current time with each input of occurrence of a physical event,

means for summary processing of said occurrences and of the current times so as to produce condensed results; and

means for recording in at least one metering file, information containing said condensed results in predefined data structures of prefixed sizes, so as to make it possible to keep the size of said file constant even when information regarding a new occurrence of a physical event is recorded, said information authorizing an at least partial temporal reconstruction of the occurrences,

wherein said condensed results comprise:

a first type of results consisting of, for each time slot of a plurality of time slots, the number of times that a time interval between an occurrence and its preceding occurrence falls within the time slot; and

a second type of results consisting of numbers of the occurrences per consecutive time slot of a predetermined period.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The temporal metering device as claimed in claim [[4]] 1, wherein the slots of time spans of the first type of results have amplitudes increasing not strictly with the time spans durations.

6. (Previously presented) The temporal metering device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical events comprise calls to a piece of software situated on a source machine by appliances able to communicate with the machine.

7. (Previously presented) The temporal metering device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical events comprise telephone calls.

8. (Previously presented) The temporal metering device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical events comprise predefined maneuvers in a motor vehicle.

9. (Previously presented) The temporal metering device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical events comprise uses of computer functionalities available on a machine and liable to undergo malfunctions on account of technical problems.

10. (Currently amended) A method of temporal metering of events comprising the steps of:

associating a current time with each input of occurrence of a physical event,
processing said occurrences and said current times so as to produce condensed results,

recording in at least one metering file, information containing the condensed results, in predefined data structures of prefixed sizes, so as to make it possible to keep the size of the file constant even when information regarding a new occurrence of a physical event is recorded, the information authorizing an at least partial temporal reconstruction of the occurrences,

wherein said condensed results comprise:

a first type of results consisting of, for each time slot of a plurality of time slots, the number of times that a time interval between an occurrence and its preceding occurrence falls within the time slot; and

a second type of results consisting of numbers of the occurrences per consecutive time slot of a predetermined period.

11. (Currently amended) A device for temporal analysis of events on the basis of at least one metering file obtained by means of a metering device in accordance with claim [[2]] 1, comprising:

- a module for extracting the results recorded in the file,
- a module for verifying consistencies of the results respectively of the types of results,
- and a module for producing a warning signal intended for a user in the case of inconsistency of the results.

12. (Previously presented) The temporal analysis device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

- a module for inputting requests of a user, the requests pertaining to temporal cues relating to the occurrences of the events,
- a module for combined processing of the types of results, which module is designed to produce said temporal cues as a function of the information recorded,
- and a module for presenting said temporal cues to the user.

13. (Currently amended) A method of temporal analysis of events on the basis of at least one metering file including information containing condensed results in predefined data structures of prefixed sizes, the at least one metering file realizing a constant file size regardless of the recording of additional information of a new occurrence of a physical event, the method comprising:

- extracting results recorded in the at least one metering file;
- verifying the consistencies of the results respectively for different types of results
- and producing a warning signal intended for a user in the case of inconsistency of the results,

wherein said condensed results comprise:

a first type of results consisting of, for each time slot of a plurality of time slots, the number of times that a time interval between an occurrence and its preceding occurrence falls within the time slot; and

a second type of results consisting of numbers of the occurrences per consecutive time slot of a predetermined period.

14. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising program code instructions which when the program is executed on a computer causing the steps of:
 associating a current time with each input of occurrence of a physical event
 processing said occurrences and said current times so as to produce condensed results,

 recording in at least one metering file, information containing the condensed results, in predefined data structures of prefixed sizes, so as to make it possible to keep the size of the file constant during successive recordings of the information, the information authorizing an at least partial temporal reconstruction of the occurrences, wherein said condensed results comprise:

a first type of results consisting of, for each time slot of a plurality of time slots, the number of times that a time interval between an occurrence and its preceding occurrence falls within the time slot; and

a second type of results consisting of numbers of the occurrences per consecutive time slot of a predetermined period.